

BUTCHART

John Butchart was a native of Perthshire, having been born January 22, 1787. His wife, Agnes Dick, came from Renfrewshire. Before coming to Canada in 1820, Mr. Butchart had been in mercantile business in connection with shipping, at Leigh, Scotland. In his early life he was in the merchant marine service and was present when New Orleans was evacuated by the British in January 1815. Later a fellowtownsman and friend of William Lyon Mackenzie in Dundee, the three emigrated in the same ship, Psyche, in April, 1820. It is recorded that their relations were most friendly and intimate on the voyage. This friendship was evidenced later on when Mackenzie, having been in possession of a Clergy Reserve lot in Toronto township, in August, 1821, turned it over to his friend at cost, which was two pounds, ten shillings. A patent for the west half of the lot was received in June 1834, for the sum £ 137:10:00, and the east half was later on bought from the Crown at current rates of 27 shillings 6 pence currency per acre. The new owner built a home for his growing family, which eventually numbered fifteen, including twins. Portions of this house are incorporated in its successor upon the east bank of the

(2)

7939

River Credit, opposite the town of Streetsville. The banks of the stream here are lofty, a fine view is visible, and the stream curves sharply at a point nearby. Through this deep valley early settlers found easier access to Streetsville over a road over his property and over the stream. Neighbors assisted in its building and the deed of the property retains a perpetual right of the public to use this way of approach. An additional road, on the same bank, but facing the other way, has been added.

In the spring spates the father and eldest son, James, caught red-fleshed salmon, as was common in streams then flowing into L. Onfric. A growing family had considerable insecurity through its close proximity to a stream reached down precipitous banks, and because the land was poor (surveyor Hugh Black so reported to Peter Robinson, land commissioner,) its owner decided to remove to land in Eramosa township (lot 13, con. 3) on the Guelph-Erin highway. There the Butcharts prospered and were highly respected members of the community. The father had an amateur knowledge of drugs and dispensed some as a community service; his wife, a competent nurse, was known for her skill, besides her feckless housekeeping.

It seems evident that John Butchart shared the political opinions of his friend, William L. Mackenzie, in the bitter struggle against the privilege-seeking maintainers of the 'Family Compact'.

In the very year of removal to Eramosa, 1837, when the agitations of the time were severe, Tory terrorists of Guelph marked John Butchart, and others, for high-handed arrest, and in Christmas week the blow fell on this household and the father was hurried to Guelph jail, later to Hamilton, with several other persons, who were afterwards to be known as the 'Eramosa martyrs'. In all these particular cases a discharge was speedily granted at trial, in the following month of March. Mr. Butchart became a substantial member of the community, and church member in the adjoining church of the Disciples of Christ. He was, whilst in Streetsville, one of the first trustees of the new public cemetery, laid out on the property of his neighbor, Mr. Street. Decease occurred in March, 1868, of Mrs Butchart, in June, 1877, both being buried in the neighboring cemetery at Everton.

John Butchart

Crown Land Letters. Toronto Twp.

7941

Lease to William Smith, native of Couper in
Fifeshire, Scotland, now of York, Home Dist. Yeoman,
Clergy Reserve lot 2, con. 4, W.C.R. Twp. of Toronto.

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15 Nov. 1819.

(notes on back of Lease)

Know all Men, I, the within named William
Smith, for.....the Sum of £2.10. paid by
William Lyon Mackenzie, of the Town of York,
Druggist, ... receipt ... acknowledged do hereby
assign, Transfer, etc. to the said William L. MacKenzie,
all my Right, Title, etc.

York, 23 Jany. 1821.

(sgnd) William Smith.

Know all men, etc. I, ... W. L. MacKenzie for
..... the sum of £2.10. ... to me paid by John Butchart,
late of Dundee in Scotland, Merchant, receipt acknowledged.
.. Do hereby assign, transfer, etc. to John Butchart,
all my Right, Title, etc. in said Lands.....

York, 2 Aug. 1821.

(sgnd) W. L. Mackenzie.

C. C. L. O. York, 24 Jan. 1834.

The price of the within Lot is 27/6 Cy. per acre. A
Separate deed for West $\frac{1}{2}$ will be given on paying up the
whole of the purchase money.

(sgnd) R.H. Thornhill.

(cont'd)

John Butchart

-2- lot 2, con. 4, W.C.R. Twp. Toronto.

7942

10
Toronto April 1828.

Sir,

I do hereby make you an offer of Eleven shillings and threepence currency per ac. for lot 2, con. 4. W.C.R. Toronto, consisting of 200 acs. the payments to be after the usage of your office, vixt. in 10 annual instalments, with interest, till paid. I will be glad to receive, as soon as possible your reply to this tender, and I remain.

..

(sgnd) John Butchart.

To the Honble Peter Robinson.

Commr. for the sale of Clergy Res. in U.C.

P. S. I purchased the right of the lessee of the Crown to the lot in question - reside on it with my family, and have made some improvements.

Toronto 13, Nov. 1832.

Hond. Sir;

Yours of the 18th ult. I have received a few days ago. I have accordingly thoroughly examined lot 2, con. 4. of this Twp. and I think that the price ought to be between £1.5. & £1.10 per acre. I am aware that some lots hereabouts have been valued still higher, but their quality was superior to this one. The Soil is amongst the poorest I know of in this neighbourhood, and the Surface is much broken with banks. Though the Credit

John Butchart

-3- lot 2, con. 4. W.C.R. Twp. Toronto.

7943

passes through it, the alluvial land is much broken by channels ~~xx~~ worn at different times by the floods, & the whole extent of the flats do not exceed twelve acres. Some might perhaps think its water privileges an object, but the neighbourhood has already more Machinery erected on the Credit than finds profitable employment.

(sgnd) Hugh Black.

Hon. Peter Robison

York.

Toronto.

7944

Cons. 3 & 4

West Hurontario St.

Address Trafalgar Post Office

No. 2 of the fourt concession,

West of the Centre road,

Toronto

April 16th, 1828

Sir:--I hereby make you an offer of eleven shillings and threepence currency per acre, for lot No. 2 4th con'n. west of the centre road, Toronto, counting of 200 acres, the payments to be after the usage of your office, --viz. in 10 annual instalments, with interest, till paid.-----I will be glad to receive, as soon as possible, your reply to this tender---and, I remain

very Respectfully

Your obed. Servant

John Butchart

To the Hon^{ble} Peter Robinson

Commissioner for the sale of the Clergy

Reserves in U. C.

P.S.-- I purchased the right of the lessee of the crown to the lot in question -- reside on it with my family and have made some improvements

7945

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Land Book "S" 1836 - 1837, U.C., Prov. Archives.

Petition read before the Council.

9 March, 1837.

JOHN BUTCHART,

Stating that he is possessed of the West half of the Cleggy Reserve Lot No. 2 In the 4th Concession West of Hurontario Street in the Township of Toronto, and praying that the east half thereof may be sold to him.

Recommended to be sold to the Petitioner at 27/6 per Acre on payment of back rents.

Toronto Township West.

7846

* W $\frac{1}{2}$ lot 2 Con 4 - Pat. 31 Jan 1834 John Butchart 100 ac -
£ 137. 10. 0.

* E $\frac{1}{2}$ lot 2 Con 4. Pat. 20 April 1837 John Butchart 100 ac -

No info in Orig Book.

Toronto Township East - none -

JK